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Atty. Docket No.: P70187US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A collecting bag for human body wastes, comprising:

a bag member including at least two outer film blanks with joined edges defining the outer contours of the bag member, said outer contours defining a fluid-retaining area of said bag member;

an inlet opening provided in one of said film blanks;

a discharge portion at a distance from the inlet opening, in a lower portion of the bag member, including a closure device for bringing the bag from a discharge position, in which the bag is open, to a position of use, in which the bag is closed, the discharge portion defining a longitudinal direction;

an accommodating element within the outer contours of the bag member for accommodating at least a part of the discharge portion in the position of use of the bag;

~~said bag member including~~ at least a first substantially tubular inner film element and a second substantially tubular inner film element, each substantially tubular inner film element being within said fluid-retaining area of said bag member and attached to the inner side of each outer film blank by means of at least one

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joint, said first and second substantially tubular inner film elements being respectively situated on each side of a dividing line substantially parallel with the longitudinal direction defined by the discharge portion, each of said substantially tubular inner film elements having, when the bag is substantially empty, a distal fold and a proximal fold with respect to said dividing line;

a first joint between the first substantially tubular inner film element and one outer film blank and a second joint between the second substantially tubular inner film element and said one outer film blank each respectively including at least one proximal joint section at or near the proximal fold and at least one distal joint section at or near the distal fold, for each of said first and second joints a first distance between at least a lower part of the proximal joint section and the proximal fold being smaller than a second distance between at least a lower part of the distal joint section and the distal fold;

said accommodating element providing at least one opening for receiving at least a part of the discharge portion in the position of use of the bag, said opening extending substantially transversely between the proximal joint sections of the first and the second substantially tubular inner film elements, respectively; and

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said proximal joint sections defining a recessed space therebetween that overlies the longitudinal dividing line, said recessed space being in the lower portion of the bag adjacent said discharge portion and fully accommodating said closure device in the in-use position so that said closure device when received within said opening does not protrude outside an arched plane defined by an overall shape of said bag member.

2. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the proximal joint sections between the first and second substantially tubular inner film elements, respectively, and said one outer film blank extend obliquely with respect to said dividing line such that said proximal joint sections converge in the direction of the discharge portion to define said recessed space.

3. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second distance between the distal joint section and the distal fold is larger than the first distance between the lower part of the proximal joint section and the proximal fold and smaller than a third distance between the upper part of the proximal joint section and the proximal fold.

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4. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein an angle of inclination between each oblique joint section and the dividing line lies in the range from 5° to 60°.

5. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein a distance between the lower ends of the oblique joint sections substantially corresponds to the cross-sectional dimensions of the corresponding part of the discharge portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein each proximal joint section is substantially parallel with its respective proximal fold, such that the first distance between the proximal joint section and the proximal fold is substantially uniform along a length of said proximal joint section, and wherein said first distance is smaller than the second distance between the distal joint section and the distal fold.

7. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 6, wherein a distance between the proximal joint sections substantially corresponds to the cross-sectional dimensions of the corresponding part of the discharge portion.

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8. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein said accommodating element is a comfort layer overlying said one outer film blank, and wherein said at least one opening is provided by a slit in said comfort layer.

9. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 8, wherein a reinforcing layer is inserted between said one outer film blank and said comfort layer, at least in the area of said slit.

10. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said joint sections is reinforced by a reinforcing portion.

11. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein additional substantially tubular inner film elements are provided in the bag member.

12. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein both substantially tubular inner film elements are provided in the area of the bag member situated adjacent the discharge portion.

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13. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bag member is substantially symmetrical with respect to said dividing line.

14. (Currently Amended) A collecting bag for human body wastes, comprising:

a bag member including at least two outer film blanks with joined edges defining outer contours of the bag member and a fluid-retaining area within said bag member;

an inlet opening provided in one of said film blanks;

a discharge portion at a distance from the inlet opening, in a lower portion of the bag member, including a closure device for bringing the bag from a discharge position, in which the bag is open, to a position of use, in which the bag is closed, the discharge portion defining a longitudinal direction;

an accommodating element within the outer contours of the bag member for accommodating at least a part of the discharge portion in the position of use of the bag;

~~said bag member includes~~ at least a first and a second substantially tubular inner film element, each substantially tubular inner film element being enclosed within said bag member in

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said fluid-retaining area and being attached to the inner side of each outer film blank by a respective pair of spaced joint sections, said first and second substantially tubular inner film elements being respectively situated at a respective side of a dividing line that is substantially parallel with the longitudinal direction defined by the discharge portion and each substantially tubular inner film element being provided in the lower portion of the bag member adjacent the discharge portion;

said accommodating element including an element providing at least one opening for receiving at least a part of the discharge portion in the position of use of the bag, said opening extending substantially transversely between said respective pairs of joint sections of the first and the second substantially tubular inner film elements, respectively.

15. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least the joint sections of each pair of joints that are proximal to said dividing line extend obliquely with respect to said dividing line such that lower ends of said proximal joint sections converge in the direction of the discharge portion, said oblique joint sections shaping the bag when it is at least partly filled so that a bag thickness measured between the

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two outer film blanks from front to back is smaller at said lower ends where said proximal joint sections converge than at upper ends of said proximal joint sections.

16. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 15 wherein an angle of inclination between each oblique joint section and the dividing line lies in the range from 5° to 60°.

17. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 16, wherein a distance between the proximal joint sections substantially corresponds to cross-sectional dimensions of a corresponding part of the discharge portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein said accommodating element is a comfort layer overlying at least one outer film blank, said opening being provided by a slit in said comfort layer.

19. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein a reinforcing layer is inserted between said one outer film blank and said comfort layer, at least in the area of said slit.

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20. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein said bag member is substantially symmetrical with respect to said dividing line.

21. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 15, wherein said smaller bag thickness at said proximal joint section lower ends provides a recessed space between the oblique joint sections adjacent the discharge portion in which said closure device is fully accommodated in the in-use position so that said closure device when received in said opening does not protrude outside an arched plane defined by the overall shape of the bag member.